

SENATE RESOLUTION 2
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Maurice Fitzgerald and the Pearl-Cohn Comprehensive High School Football Team, Tennessee Secondary Athletic Association Class 4-A state champions.

WHEREAS, football is a sport that teaches many important lessons which can be successfully applied to life, including the value of hard work and discipline, the necessity of overcoming obstacles and the will to achieve; and

WHEREAS, the tenacious Pearl-Cohn Comprehensive High School Football Team, with tremendous fortitude and exemplary determination, has dazzled the gridiron experts with their brilliant play and added another spectacular chapter to their sterling athletic record; and

WHEREAS, in the regular season Region 4-A play, this formidable squad of multi-talented athletes compiled an impressive 11-4 record; and

WHEREAS, their winning record remained intact throughout the TSSAA playoffs, as the team racked up wins over such heavy hitters as Hardin County, Memphis University School, Collierville and Fayette-Ware by a combined score of 76-43; and

WHEREAS, in the state championship game played at Vanderbilt University, Pearl-Cohn zipped Knoxville Halls by the score of 18-14 to become 1996 TSSAA Class 4-A State Champions; and

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WHEREAS, Head coach Maurice Fitzgerald is to be commended for his brilliant game strategy, as well as his inspired leadership of these fine young men; and

WHEREAS, a special debt of gratitude is owed to Coach Fitzgerald's team of capable assistant coaches, upon whom he has heavily relied throughout the team's grueling practice sessions and game days; this team includes Glenn Seabrooks, Floyd Reid, Tommy Wilson, Craig Gilliam and Tony Booth. Together they have done a superb job of molding the natural talent of the team into championship caliber; and

WHEREAS, every successful team has its supporting cast; those worthy of special commendation for their unremitting support of the team include: Scott Brunette, Athletic Director; Principals Anthony Hall, Mary Nollner and Henry Meriweather; booster club president; Peggy Teasley, booster club members; Tom O. Johns and Allen Anderson, team doctors; Columbia Sports Medicine; and managers Jackie Gage, Marcus Fitzgerald, Jeremy Stewart and Senneca Shaw; and

WHEREAS, team members include: Santonio Beard, Solathcus Benford, Wallace Bowman, Thomas Clardy, Micheal Claybrooks, Brian Claybrooks, Corey Copeland, James Cross, Alex Dizol, Tehran Dotson, Louis Drake, Michael Fanning, Buck Fitzgerald, Victor Flowers, Kenneth Gates, Robert Hall, Damien Harris, John Henderson, Tyrone Hodge, Donovan Hodison, Wesley Holmes, Curtis Johnson, Tyreese Lawless, Joey Martin, Jamandas Mayberry, Rickie McDowell, Anthony McDowell, Shawn Owens, Orlando Pender, Jason Potter, Dale Powell, Reggie Ridley, Kevin Ross, Johan Samuels, Ronald Slay, Jermiah Smelly, Antwan Teasley, Derrick Venzen, Albert Washington, Carlos Watkins, Antwan Williams, Cedrick Wilson, Hank Wilson and McKinley Young; and

WHEREAS, lending moral support and team spirit to Coach Pat Jones' cheerleading squad were Laquinta Briley, Christy Bryant, Qiana Corbin, Sheronda Corlew, Lashaun Davis, LeShawnda Fitzgerald, Jessica Jones, Latresha Malone, Brandi McFairland, Marlon Meyers,

Claire Neal, Tamara Patterson, Ka-Rhonda Porter, Mon-Kisha Porter, Nicki Sayles, Cindy Shipman, Celeste Thompson, Egypt Williams and Dekisha Wilson; and

WHEREAS, also deserving of special commendation are Band Director Freddie Holt and his many dedicated band members; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this exemplary team for their numerous accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and congratulate Coach Maurice Fitzgerald and the Pearl-Cohn Comprehensive High School Football Team on winning the District 4-A TSSAA State Championship and wish them much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.